

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 18-19, 21-24, 45-47, and 52 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been amended. No claims have being added. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-17, 20, 25-44, 48-51, and 53-54 are now pending in this application.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

The Examiner objected to Claims 51 and 52 because the claims are duplicates. Claim 52 has been canceled to overcome this objection.

Pursuant to the request made by the Examiner in the November 20, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer relating to U.S. Patent Nos. 7,107,129; 7,274,976; 7,184,862; 7,162,332; 7,127,331; and 6,922,615.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 1, 13, and 14 based on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 21-25 of copending application No. 11/729,694 (hereinafter '694).

The present application and the '694 patent application are commonly owned. Therefore, the Applicants request that the provisional double patenting rejection of Claims 1, 13, and 14 be held in abeyance until allowable independent claims are indicated by the Examiner in the present application (since a timely filed terminal disclaimer would overcome the rejection such that further consideration of the claims on that rejection should not be necessary). 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(b).

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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